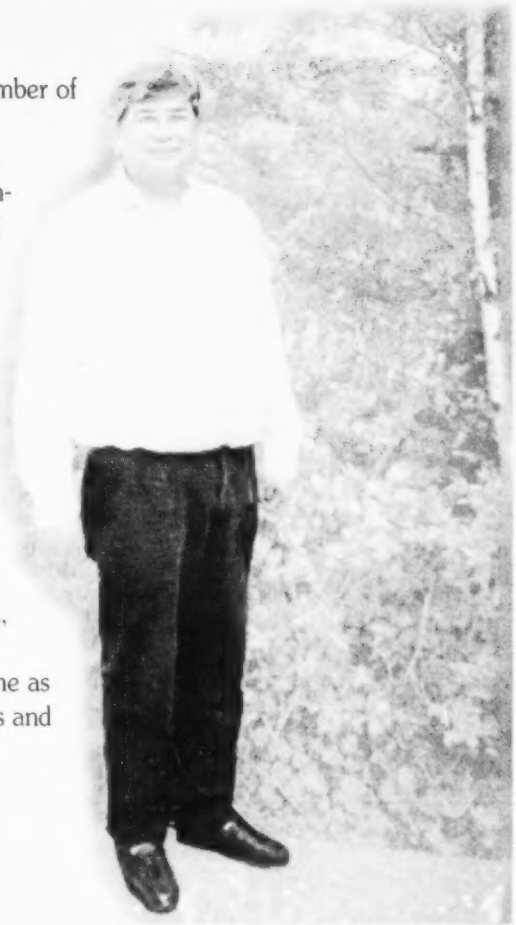
the Bridge
NEWSLETTER of the BRITISH COLUMBIA FIRST NATIONS FORESTRY PROGRAM

You will be missed, my friend

Elwood "Woody" Quewezance was a member of the First Nations Forestry Program Management Board in British Columbia since its inception in 1996, one of three members representing businesses operated by First Nations people.

Born May 15, 1952 in Kamsack, Saskatchewan, Woody died April 30, 2000.

Woody was predeceased by his father Frank and brother James and is lovingly remembered by his wife "Deetsa" (Eurphrasia), children Cyrus (Tania), Eric (Lisa), Pam (Danny), Bing (Arlene), Tony, and Ryan; mother Gladys; siblings Janet Grant, Marta Cote, Frances Quewezance, Hilda Saddleback, Milton "Porky", Jason, Philip, Freddie, Errol Quewezance, Bobby Muier, and aunt Josephine as well as 10 grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.



See page 6 for a special tribute to Woody Quewezance.

July 2000

Canada

Boston Bar First Nation

Horses haul logs from tricky terrain in Fraser Canyon

2HP logging was perfect choice

That's Sid on the left next to Pete. Together, they go where conventional equipment cannot.

It's highly unusual for the First Nations Forestry Program to request proof of a veterinarian checkup before paying a project claim.

But that was one of the "deliverables" of a 1999/00 project!

Sid and Pete are trained Belgian draft horses and together with human partners – Hugh Florence and Hugh Jr. — they are the power behind a new Boston Bar horse logging company called 2HP Logging (pun intended).

A contribution from the First Nations Forestry Program made it possible for the Boston Bar First Nation to purchase the talented pair of horses through a livestock broker in Kamloops. Funding helped cover the cost of tack and four months of training from experienced Boston Bar area horse logger Dwight Qualie of Smokey Mountain Enterprises Ltd. And Florence was also able to pick up some valuable tips in shoeing from an experienced farrier and facts about general horse health care from a veterinarian.

2HP Logging takes active role in local forestry activity

The sawmill in Boston Bar, currently owned by J.S. Jones Timber Ltd., has a long history in the area and there's been lots of logging throughout the Boston Bar First Nation's traditional territory in the Fraser Canyon. But community members have not often had much of a chance to get involved.

When an opportunity came up to use horses to harvest timber in the forests surrounding the town of Boston Bar — an area of steep and

rocky valleys that most operators had found too difficult to log – Florence jumped at the idea of such a venture.

"The band had about 300 m^3 on a reserve just east of town that they wanted to take out for house logs," relates Florence. "Conventional equipment would have damaged both the logs and the remaining timber, so the horses were a perfect choice."

And a perfect way for the Boston Bar First Nation to take a more active role in forestry activities.

Heavy equipment would have made job easier

Training was done on two separate logging sites, one on-reserve and one on private land. The "crew" then moved into the 300 m^3 area east of town where they worked for about a month getting the house logs to the road.

The Florences – father and son – very quickly realized that logging requires more than just the horses and a few hand tools. Some heavier "equipment" to load the logs, clean up the work site and transport the horse team would have made the job a lot easier and cheaper.

So what is 2HP Logging doing now?

"One of the high-lead loggers in Boston Bar currently has a contract that has at least one block that the horses could be used in," says Florence. "It would be a good match – the horses logging the suitable block, backed up by the rest of the contractor's equipment to help with the rest of the job. The horses are here and available, and the opportunities to use them are out there."

For more information, call Chief Yvonne Andrews at (604) 867-8844 or Hugh Florence at (604) 867-9135.

Animals have personalities and idiosyncrasies

Hugh Florence and Hugh, Jr. of the Boston Bar First Nation spent four months learning about a specialized sort of logging with their talented team of Belgian horses "Sid" and "Pete". Training covered:

- The concepts of horse logging including terrain, size of timber and capacity of the animals.
- Working with the animals including discipline, personalities, control and idiosyncrasies.
- The types and fitting of the tack including collars, harnesses and lines.
- Planning the work including falling, skid trail layout and landing cleanup.
- Routine care and feeding of the animals including proper warm-up and cool-down procedures, grooming, checking hay and other feed requirements, and checking for injuries, infections and hoof damage.

Popular workshops attract enthusiastic participation

Ninety-five keen and curious young people with little or no experience in forestry or business have now learned the basics of both thanks to seven two-and-three-day forestry business workshops offered by the Nicola Valley Institute of Technology (NVIT).

Funding from the First Nations Forestry Program covered the administrative and management costs of delivering this very popular training opportunity which attracted enthusiastic participation from members of bands in or near Merritt, Kamloops, Lytton, D'arcy and Keremeos including the Whispering Pines and Clinton, Coldwater, Lower Similkameen, N'Quatqua and Lytton Indian bands.

One of the best things about the training was that it came to the people!

"We were able to host the same workshop in five different locations," says Paul Willms, Department Head of Natural Resources at NVIT. "That meant we reached more people and no one was forced to leave their home community to participate in a valuable program such as this."

NVIT is a small First Nations college in Merritt offering courses that uniquely equip future First Nation leaders with innovative and relevant credentials. Six local bands guide the content of NVIT's curriculum which honours traditional culture and values and balances these with the educational goals of the Institute.

There were no course credits awarded for completion of a First Nations Forestry Business workshop. And there were no entry requirements – the workshops were open to anyone interested in learning about launching a forestry-related business. But the seven sessions did equip participants with something almost as important as a credit. They provided them with enough basic information to be able to now decide whether a job in the forest sector is something they want to pursue.

It was all about getting the basics

"Workshop leaders introduced the principles of business and financial management and helped participants set personal and financial goals needed for successful business planning," notes Willms, adding that NVIT allowed for a variety of instructional techniques in the workshops to take into account the specific needs of each community.

Popular training opportunity attracted enthusiastic participation from bands in and around Merritt, Kamloops, Lytton and Keremeos

Course content, then, really depended on what participants said they wanted to learn about.

For example, if knowing how to identify forestry business opportunities was particularly important at one of the workshops, that became the focus. But it could just as likely have been how to develop a business plan or what does it take to run a successful business. Workshop participants also heard financial management tips, looked at the benefits of partnerships and joint ventures and picked up many useful business management skills.

For more information, call Paul Willms at (250) 378-3327

Planning promotes protection of reserve forest

Focussing on forestry for the past five years is starting to pay off for an Okanagan community in the southern part of the Similkameen Valley near Keremeos.

"There's still a long way to go but we are getting closer to our goal of seeing pride and self-satisfaction among band members as they become more knowledgeable about resource management," says Dixon Terbasket, Forestry Manager for the Lower Similkameen Indian Band. "The plan is that eventually more and more people here will be able to get involved in successful forestry operations."

The Lower Similkameen Indian Band applied for and received funding from the First Nations Forestry Program in 1996 and 1999.

And that funding has served as a kind of "jump-start" into forestry-related activity.

First, the band was able to complete a feasibility study, a marketing plan and a business plan, each providing a fresh perspective on the promise and possibility of using its reserve forest as a business and employment opportunity . . . a bit of a shift for a community where agriculture has for a long time been a main source of employment for the over 400 people living there.

Then, the band was able to establish a Natural Resource Department which now keeps four technical forestry workers busy part-time with brushing, block lay-out, road development and other silviculture projects. The Natural Resource Department has also trained twelve people in brushing, chainsaw safety and equipment maintenance as well as fire control and first aid.

Dixon Terbasket is Forestry Manager for the Lower Similkameen Indian Band.

Band produces three planning tools

Most recently, the Lower Similkameen Indian Band has been able to update an old 1989 forest inventory as well as produce two critical forest planning tools – a five-year Forest Development Plan and a much longer term Forest Management Plan.

Updating the forest inventory was a costly, time-consuming and extremely important project.

Field surveys were done as well as timber cruising to verify forest cover types. GIS data was collected, aerial photos taken and ground truthing conducted to confirm and calibrate the aerial observations.

All this data collected then had to be processed. But now the band has the valuable information it needs to accurately determine how much timber, for example, it can cut annually from its reserve forest without depleting the trees – in other words, an ecologically sustainable Annual Allowable Cut or AAC.

The Forest Management Plan is important because it projects the band's forestry activities over the next five, twenty and two-hundred years. The plan looks at everything from harvesting activities, road construction, fire prevention and basic silviculture commitments to wildlife management, soil conservation and cultural heritage.

The five-year Forest Development Plan is useful mostly as a guide for making those more immediate management and development decisions relating to forestry activities.

Continued on page 11

FNFP Board member encouraged youn

by Beverly Bird

It was love at first sight when Woody met Deetsa in Prince George in 1975. He never asked this lovely woman from the Nak'azdli Band to marry him, just made arrangements for the wedding and they were married in 1978. Deetsa had three children which Woody always treated as his own right from the first day. (Woody and Deetsa then had three boys of their own.)

Woody was very proud of all his children and grandchildren. At work as a tireless and dedicated Forestry Technician, he'd often let everyone know how special his family were to him.

Woody's work history was varied but always tied to companies and departments that form part of Tl'azt'en Nation's Economic Development ventures.

Woody was a tireless member of the First Nations Forestry Board, always looking for opportunities to promote the program to Bands across the province. As a forest technician he brought a unique set of perspectives to the Board, and was a valued member of the team. We shall all miss him greatly; his humour and good nature made our long days of tough decision-making enjoyable. While other Board members might choose to fly into our meetings in Vancouver or Victoria, Woody would usually drive the long trek - more often than not with stories to tell us about adventures with his truck along the way. We'll miss you Woody and we'll be thinking of you. God Bless.

Elaine Teske
Co-chair
First Nations Forestry Program
Management Board

If it wasn't for Woody, Alec Pierre wouldn't be going to school to become a forestry technician.

Thomas Pierre

Over the years, his duties included those of manager and supervisor as well as forestry technician. He was a scaler and involved in wildlife conservation. He assisted in developing the Consultation/Referral Process and was an advisor to Keyoh Holders (Tl'azt'enne traditional land users) & Registered Trapline Holders, a role he especially enjoyed. He was a Jokester and a Trickster and the Tl'azt'en Nation King of Hearts 2000 (Valentine's King).

Woody's involvement in forestry started in 1982 as a summer student at Tanizul Timber Ltd. where he trained as a Forestry Technician. Then, after graduating, he went to Canfor Ltd as a summer student and eventually came back to Tanizul Timber again before being transferred to Teeslee Forest Products where he worked as Scale Operator.

"We sure do miss him but his spirit is always around here," says Thomas Pierre, Tanizul Operations Manager, pictured here, left, with colleague Woody in happier times.

ʒ people to get an education in forestry

In April 1998, Woody joined Tl'azt'en Nation Woodlands Division where he served as the Manager for Silviculture. In July 1999, he took the position of acting Director of Natural Resources for Tl'azt'en Nation.

"If it wasn't for Woody, Alec Pierre wouldn't be going to school to become a forestry technician. As a forestry technician himself, Woody encouraged our people to go to school. He was a great promoter of forestry-related education. Now there are quite a few of our people going to school to do forestry training. We sure do miss him but his spirit is always around here", says Thomas Pierre, Tanizul Operations Manager.

When Woody moved from Tanizul Timber and Woodlands to the Tl'azt'en Nation Natural Resources Department, he realized how difficult it is sometimes to work within government policies and procedures. He worked very closely with Chief Danny Alexis in attempting to change some of those policies. And with his extensive experience in forestry and special skills at communicating, he was able to make a difference.

Woody attended many meetings with government officials, licensees and trapline holders. While he was very serious about forestry and the other issues he was committed to, he also had a talent to bring laughter to virtually any situation.

"Woody left his spirit here with all his staff, friends and colleagues. He was a very valuable employee, especially as a protector of our culture and traditional ways. Woody fought very hard for the protection of our Aboriginal Rights and Title. We'd stand in the rain for hours with people who tried to spray our traditional territory. With his chosen profession, he was able to

Continued next page

Despite the fact that I did not know Woody outside of the world of forestry-related committee meetings and events, I felt I knew a lot about him. He was the kind of man most people are attracted to. His character was defined by his smile and laugh. He was always oriented to people. He liked exchanging views on almost any topic and was interested in others' opinions, whatever they were. His honesty in his approach to situations and openness in presenting his opinions was refreshing. He could make those in the room with him relax by finding humour in virtually any situation. He was also serious about forestry issues. Woody was dedicated to supporting First Nations' title and rights to natural resources in their traditional territory. He was also keen on developing the capacity of First Nations to manage and benefit from forest resources. The people around the many tables at which Woody sat will miss him.

Chief Nathan Matthew
Co-chair
First Nations Forestry Program Management Board

Continued from previous page

Woody's work history was varied but always tied to the Tl'azt'en Nation's Economic Development ventures.

practice his own Soto culture. It was in his heart. He was always concerned with Forest Development Plans and especially about herbicide spraying. Together, we stood and fought with the Ministry of Environment. Woody was also a very spiritual person and has left us with happy memories. This is a very sad time for Tl'azt'en Nation. The staff will really miss him", says Chief Danny Alexis.

Woody attended many meetings with government officials, licensees and trapline holders. He was a member of the Board of Directors for the First Nations Forestry Program (FNFP) and a member of the provincial management committee for Resource Access Negotiations (RAN) with the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

He brought laughter and funny stories even to those boardroom meetings. Colleague Beverly Bird remembers Woody used to come back to work and tell her what he'd said and done and she'd respond:

"How crazy you are Woody!"

Woody's social life was filled with friends and acquaintances who shared much laughter and happy moments. A favourite saying of his? "God should have made me richer instead of giving me my good looks".

Cecil Matin, Tl'azt'en Nation Woodlands Manager says Woody was involved in old-timers hockey and baseball and would love to be with the crowd at horse racing.

"In his spare time, he would tease anyone and everyone, endlessly. You will be sadly missed my friend, Woodster."

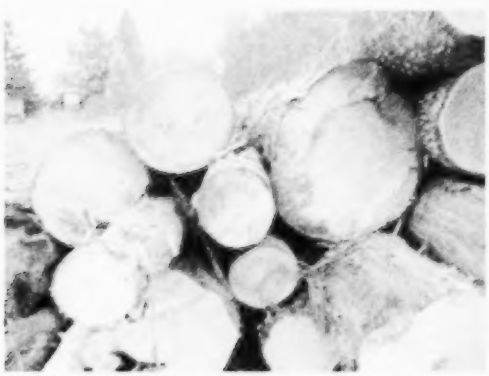
Woody represented British Columbia well at FNFP national management committee meetings, most recently in Fredericton, March 2000.

Sooke Log Mall offers quality, convenience and affordability

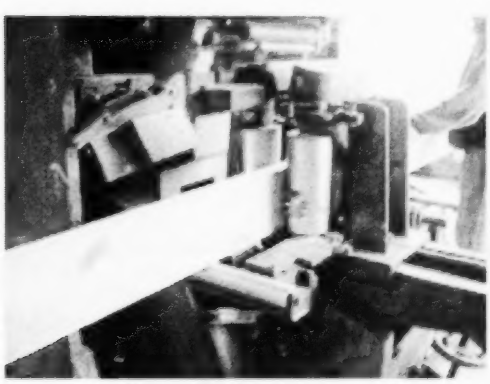
Like many success stories, this one didn't happen overnight.

It was more than a decade ago that the idea of creating a "mall" with a difference first came up.

Imagine a place – like a shopping mall or convenience store – where makers of wood products and operators of local small-scale sawmills can pick up a load of logs at an affordable price.



These logs were harvested from Kuitshe Creek and are ready for grading and sorting at the Sooke Log Mall



The raw lumber may be sold directly after kiln drying or run through a re-manufacturing process to add increased value.

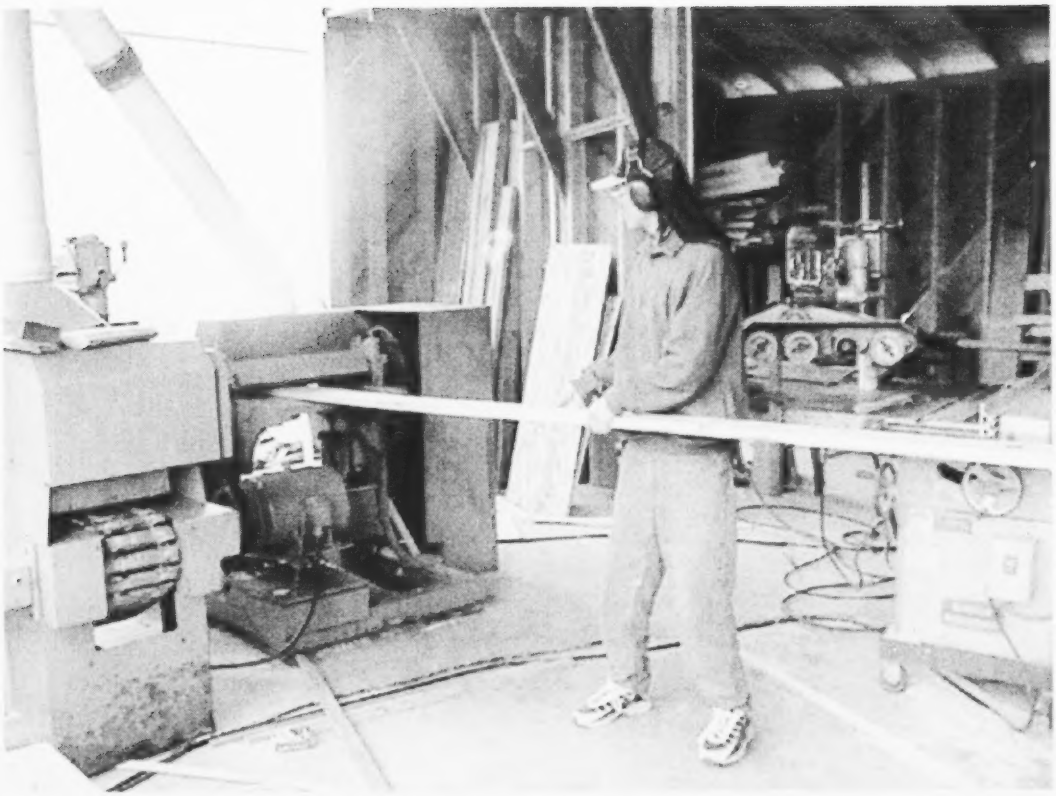
That's the Sooke Log Mall.

"The idea was to provide a much needed source of logs for small manufacturers who were having more and more difficulty competing with the major firms for a reliable supply of reasonably priced timber," explains Wally Vowles, T'Sou-ke First Nation Band Manager. "Direct benefits for us would be increased training and employment opportunities as well as cash revenues generated from our leasing the land required."

The Juan de Fuca Community Futures Development Corporation took the first step toward creation of the now successful Sooke Log Mall by applying for a Timber Sale Licence from the Ministry of Forests South Island District.

The T'Sou-ke First Nation along with the Sooke Economic Development Commission, Forest Renewal BC, a team of foresters and the private sector joined together to cooperate with and assist the Corporation in this venture – a perfect partnership designed to ensure benefits from the Sooke Log Mall spread throughout the region and among all participants.

The finished board is then ready for assembly into the final product, hot tubs in this case!



One of the manufacturers currently on-site has a planer and a molding mill.

Funding from the First Nations Forestry Program (FNFP) made it possible for the T'Sou-ke First Nation to hire a forestry consultant to help it with both the establishment of this partnership and negotiation of the terms of its involvement.

The Juan de Fuca Community Futures Development Corporation, for example, is responsible for the administration and harvesting end of the project while the T'Sou-ke First Nation provides employees and a site where logs can be sorted (sort yard).

The Timber Sale License was granted the partnership and the first "sale at the mall" was March 9th, 2000!

The license was a "primary salvage award" of 350 m^3. Salvage wood or fibre could be taken from specific areas of Crown and private tenure land near Port Renfrew. The wood was then brought to the Sooke Log Mall's sort yard on T'Sou-ke IR #1 where it was graded, scaled and set either in bins or kept as single pieces for auction.

Salvage fibre is mostly "windthrow" timber – trees uprooted by the wind but still of a quality good enough to yield valuable wood products.

All the wood was sold at this first sale and it was sold with a difference.

Instead of simply being auctioned off to the highest bidder, a weighted bidding system was

A wood-mizer sawmill is on-site to provide primary breakdown of the logs if required by the purchaser.

put in place. The cost of the wood was tied to what it was going to be used for. In other words, the intended value-added manufacturing process determined the price.

Once sold, the fibre was also tracked through the various buyers to determine its end use and the amount of employment created.

This first sale saw the wood being used for canoe and shipbuilding, tables and other furniture. It created 14 temporary jobs.

The Sooke Log Mall has grown in more ways than one.

Its sort yard now has a "Wood-Mizer" sawmill which can process dimension lumber on-site for a log buyer if desired. Kiln-drying is in the process and resawing facilities are available. A planer/molder is expected to be installed in a few months and a second salvage timber sale is scheduled for the summer.

There are new neighbours now as well.

A producer of high end cedar hot tubs and fence panels is on-site and so is a pallet manufacturer with other end users expected to come to the mall soon.

"The concentration of small wood processing businesses in one area seems to be a concept that is working out. We are getting requests to sell more small lots of logs and to increase the number of single logs for sale next time. The interest from small-scale wood processors on southern Vancouver Island to sell wood on this basis is definitely increasing," notes Vowles.

Vowles adds that based on the flow of logs through the Log Mall, the T'Sou-ke First Nation is looking forward to having members launch value-added wood processing businesses of their own.

"We are certainly glad that the FNFP has allowed us to create quite a few jobs from a relatively small volume of wood," he concludes.

For information, contact Wally Vowles, T'Sou-ke First Nation Band Manager at (250) 642-3957.

Photographs provided by Doug Eddy, Executive Director, Juan de Fuca Community Futures Development Corporation.

***Planning**, continued from Page 5*

"All this planning work is basically just a first step but it's still extremely beneficial. It furthers our goal to provide accountability in managing, protecting and conserving our natural ecology and forest reserves for our elders and our youth. We also want to be able to make sure generations yet to be born will have something to manage as well," says Terbasket.

For more information, contact Chief Moses Louie or Dixon Terbasket at 250-499-5528.

FNFP Management Board announces projects for 2000/01

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The First Nations Forestry Program Management Board has approved a new round of projects for funding in 2000/01. The total number of proposals received was 88 with 33 funded for a total of $784,365.

Support goes to First Nations bands, tribal councils and businesses to promote their participation in the forestry sector.

Applicant	Community	Project Title	FNFP Funding
Burns Lake Native Dev. Corp.	Burns Lake	Lands & Resource Capacity Building Project	$25,000
Campbell River Indian Band	Campbell River	Silviculture/Watershed Restoration Training	$25,000
Carrier Sekani Tribal Council	Prince George	Integrated Resource Planner Training-on-the-Job	$16,300
Ditidaht First Nation	Port Alberni	Integration of Shingle Manufacturing with Sawmill & Cedar Log Salvage Operations	$25,000
Esketemc First Nation	Williams Lake	Esket Forest Sector Plan	$25,000
Gitlakdamix Council	New Aiyansh	Mountain Pine Beetle Control	$25,000
Gwawaenuk Tribe	Port McNeill	Forest Resource Management Plan	$25,000
Hupacasath First Nation	Port Alberni	Hupacasath Non-Timber Forest Products Eco. Plan	$24,980
Khowutzun Forest Services	Duncan	Brushing & Pruning Training	$6,916
Kitasoo Band Council	Klemtu	Kitasoo Forestry Project	$25,000
Kitselas First Nation	Terrace	Community Specialist/Forestry Activities	$25,000
Lakahahmen F.N.	Deroche	Value Added Sawmill Feasibility Study	$25,000
Lhtako Dene Nation	Quesnel	Lhtako Dene Nation Silviculture Renewal Project	$24,968
Little Shuswap Indian Band	Chase	Little Shuswap Berry Patch Project	$24,735
Lower Kootenay Band	Creston	Lower Kootenay Band Community Forest Training	$25,000
Lower Similkameen Indian Band	Keremeos	Ashnola Watershed Co-Management Agreement	$15,000
Mount Currie Band	Mount Currie	Lil'wat Forest Business Development-Phase 2	$22,490
Nak'al Koh Logging	Fort St. James	Forest Planning and Management	$25,000
Nicola Tribal Association	Merritt	GIS Joint Venture Development	$25,000
O'Neil Mktg & Con.	Vancouver	AFIC Conference	$25,000
Prophet River Band	Fort Nelson	Ethnobotany Study Looking at Traditional and Medicinal Uses of Plants	$25,000
Sechelt Indian Band	Sechelt	SIB Forest Land Base and Bus. Mgmt. Training	$25,000
Shuswap Indian Band	Invermere	Shuswap Band Forestry Project	$25,000
Simpcw Dev. Company Ltd.	Barriere	Sawfiling Shop and Apprenticeship Program	$25,000
Skatin Band	Pemberton	Skatin Heritage Protection & Trail Enhancement Project	$24,941
Sliammon Dev. Corporation	Powell River	SDC Forestry Joint Venture Development	$24,880
Spallumcheen Band	Enderby	Spallumcheen Band Forestry Plan Development and Capacity Building	$25,000
Sumas First Nation	Abbotsford	Forest Resource Plan and Feasibility Study	$15,000
Tl'azt'en Nation Woodlands Division	Fort St. James	Tl'azt'en Silviculture Project Manager Training	$24,200
Tsay Keh Dene	Pr George	Tsay Keh Dene Forestry Program	$25,000
T'Sou-ke Nation	Sooke	Woodlot and Alder Management Project	$10,000
Westbank First Nation	Kelowna	Westbank First Nation Forestry Business Options	$20,000
Xa'xtsa Band	Mission	Xa'xtsa Heritage Protection & Trail Enhancement Project	$24,941

FNFP Website: http://www.pfc.cfs.nrcan.gc.ca/main/programs/fnfp

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